

(Mr. LAUTENBERG) was added as a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 181, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the situation in East Timor.

AMENDMENT NO. 1595

At the request of Mr. BENNETT the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of Amendment No. 1595 proposed to H.R. 2466, a bill making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1598

At the request of Mr. MURKOWSKI the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1598 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2466, a bill making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1613

At the request of Ms. SNOWE her name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1613 proposed to H.R. 2466, a bill making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 56—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING THE IMPORTANCE OF "FAMILY FRIENDLY"; PROGRAMMING ON TELEVISION

Mr. VOINOVICH (for himself Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. DEWINE, Mrs. LINCOLN, and Mr. GORTON) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. CON. RES. 56

Expressing the sense of Congress regarding the importance of "family friendly" programming on television.

Whereas American children and adolescents spend between 22 and 28 hours each week viewing television;

Whereas American homes have an average of 2.75 television sets, and 87 percent of homes with children have more than 1 television set;

Whereas there is a need to increase the availability of programs suitable for the entire family during prime time viewing hours;

Whereas surveys of television content demonstrate that many programs contain substantial sexual or violent content;

Whereas although parents are ultimately responsible for appropriately supervising their children's television viewing, it is also important to provide positive, "family friendly" programming that is suitable for parents and children to watch together;

Whereas efforts should be made by television networks, studios, and the production community to produce more quality family friendly programs and to air those programs during times when parents and children are likely to be viewing together;

Whereas members of the Family Friendly Programming Forum are concerned about the availability of family friendly television programs during prime time viewing hours; and

Whereas Congress encourages activities by the Forum and other entities designed to promote family friendly programming, including—

(1) participating in meetings with leadership of major television networks, studios, and production companies to express concerns;

(2) expressing the importance of family friendly programming at industry conferences, meetings, and forums;

(3) honoring outstanding family friendly television programs with a new tribute, the Family Program Awards, to be held annually in Los Angeles, California;

(4) establishing a development fund to finance family friendly scripts; and

(5) underwriting scholarships at television studies departments at institutions of higher education to encourage student interest in family friendly programming: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) recognizes and honors the efforts of the Family Friendly Programming Forum and other entities supporting family friendly programming;

(2) supports efforts to encourage television networks, studios, and the production community to produce more quality family friendly programs;

(3) supports the proposed Family Friendly Programming Awards, development fund, and scholarships, all of which are designed to encourage, recognize, and celebrate creative excellence in, and commitment to, family friendly programming; and

(4) encourages the media and American advertisers to further a family friendly television environment within which appropriate advertisements can accompany the programming.

• Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, I rise today along with my friend and colleague from Connecticut, Senator LIEBERMAN, to submit a resolution recognizing the importance of expanding the amount of family friendly television programming, and to saluting the contributions that the Family Friendly Programming Forum is undertaking to make this goal a reality.

As nearly any parent will attest, it can be a very difficult task to keep track of what their children watch after school. It is particularly hard for working parents. Each week the average child watches 22 to 28 hours of television, which is more time than is spent on nearly any other activity, except sleeping. The trick for parents is to establish good family viewing habits that emphasize quality programming and which are suited to the age of these young viewers. Many parents have indicated their desire to have more program choices for family friendly viewing during the evening hours when everyone is home together.

To help in this endeavor, a number of our nation's leading companies have joined forces to establish the Family Friendly Programming Forum. The Forum's members, which includes some of the nation's largest television advertisers, are encouraging the production of more television programs geared to-

ward the entire family. As sponsors of a wide range of programs, the Forum's members believe that there is a definite call for more family friendly movies, documentaries, series and other programs that are relevant and interesting to a broad family audience.

The members of the Forum are working on a variety of initiatives in an effort to promote more family friendly programs. They are: engaging in constructive dialogue with industry leaders, presenting awards to family friendly television programs, establishing a development fund for family friendly scripts, awarding university scholarships in television studies that highlight family television themes, as well as embarking on a public awareness campaign.

Mr. President, as a father and a grandfather, I am deeply concerned about the healthy development of all our nation's children. The future of our nation depends to a great degree on the safe and nurturing environment that will give children a positive outlook on life. Therefore, I encourage efforts that will increase the number and quality of family TV programs. I congratulate the Family Friendly Programming Forum on their leadership toward that goal.

I believe that the passage of the resolution that Senator LIEBERMAN and I are introducing honors the Forum's commitment and helps raise the awareness of others in the business community to align themselves with the goal of bringing quality television to our nation's families for the benefit of our children. I encourage my colleagues to join us in cosponsoring this resolution and I urge the Senate to provide it's quick approval. •

SENATE RESOLUTION 183—DESIGNATING THE WEEK BEGINNING ON SEPTEMBER 19, 1999, AND ENDING ON SEPTEMBER 25, 1999, AS NATIONAL HOME EDUCATION WEEK

Mr. ASHCROFT (for himself, Mr. COVERDELL, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. HELMS, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. GREGG, and Mr. SMITH of Oregon) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 183

Whereas the United States is committed to excellence in education;

Whereas the United States recognizes the importance of family participation and parental choices in pursuit of that excellence;

Whereas the United States recognizes the fundamental right of parents to direct the education and upbringing of their children;

Whereas parents want their children to receive a first-class education;

Whereas training in the home strengthens the family and guides children in setting the highest standards for their lives which are essential elements to the continuity of morality in our culture;

Whereas home schooling families contribute significantly to the cultural diversity important to a healthy society;